

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for operating a drive unit having an internal combustion engine of a vehicle, the method comprising:
predefining, in at least one operating state, a setpoint value by a regulator for at least one manipulated variable of the drive unit to correct an actual value for a performance quantity of the drive unit to a setpoint value of the performance quantity; and
activating a compressor in an air intake to the internal combustion engine when the setpoint value of the at least one variable exceeds a predefined threshold value, to set the at least one manipulated variable.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein, in at least one operating state, a setpoint value for an output variable of the drive unit, is predefined by the regulator to correct the actual value of the performance quantity of the drive unit to the setpoint value of the performance quantity, the setpoint value of the output variable being implemented by the at least one manipulated variable whose setpoint value is assigned to the setpoint value of the output variable.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein an engine speed is selected as the performance quantity.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein an intake manifold pressure is selected as at least one manipulated variable.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the ambient pressure is selected as the predefined threshold value.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the compressor is driven electrically.

7. The method of claims 1, wherein the compressor is driven mechanically.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the setpoint value of the output variable is implemented by a second manipulated variable.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein a setpoint value for the intake manifold pressure is determined from the setpoint value of the output variable, and if the setpoint value for the intake manifold pressure exceeds the ambient pressure, in addition to a complete opening of a control element, at least one of the compressor and a bypass valve is activated in the intake manifold so that it builds up a boost pressure in the intake manifold which is approximately equal to the setpoint value for the intake manifold pressure.
10. A device for operating a drive unit having an internal combustion engine of a vehicle, comprising:
 - a regulator, which, in at least one operating state, predefines a setpoint value for at least one manipulated variable of the drive unit to correct an actual value for a performance quantity of the drive unit to a setpoint value of the performance quantity; and
 - an activation arrangement to set the at least one manipulated variable by activating a compressor in an air intake to the internal combustion engine when the setpoint value of the at least one manipulated variable exceeds a predefined threshold value.
11. The method of claim 2, wherein the output variable includes torque.
12. The method of claim 7, wherein the compressor is driven by a crankshaft of the internal combustion engine.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the second manipulated variable includes a fuel mass to be injected.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein the control element includes a throttle valve.